

Mint of the U. S. States at Phil^a
M. & R. Dep^t

14 July - 1879

Sir

I regret to report to you that some of the large lot of fine silver bars lately received by us consists of a spongy kind of silver, easily abraded in handling. I believe from former experience that it is of excellent quality, when melted, but it seems to me to have been poured into sand moulds, at a very high heat, which always induces sponginess, & it is rather to draw the attention of the shippers of bullion to the losses to which they are liable from handling such silver.

The worst of the kind which I have seen were of the lot of Mess. Handy & Cronise, received by us on the 8th July, & were marked on the bars 1802, 1803, 1678-1672 (7 bars) which weighed by Invoice 10,330.15 oz. but when we received it, 10,320.70 oz. Our Phil^a Nos are 838-844.

We gathered up the larger & more important grains

around the balance, while weighing these bars, and found them to be about $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce. But the street car in which they were brought, & the whole route from the car to the weigh room was bespangled with small flakes of fine silver. Finding the weight nearly 10 oz. short of the Invoice weight, each of the 7 bars showed over an ounce deficiency, when weighed singly.

Of course Mr H. S. Cochran will make allowance for this loss, but it appears to me proper that the Shippers should be apprized of it.

Very respectfully yours

J. C. Booth

M & R

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.

442 1/2

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

July 14th, 1879.

Jas. C. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Reports Spangy
Character of Silver
bars recently recd,
fairly abraded in hand-
ling, to the left of the
striking

The last silver from
Hendy & Brown, recd
both from Omaha, &
Loring & Penna Refinery
is worse yet. See.

No. of Enclosures,

Rec^d July 14th, 1879.

[Abstract:] Reports spongy character of silver bars... 442 ½

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